



**Pit Bulls Form Very Strong Bonds with their Owners**

*Ever had a fan club before? Get ready, because you'll have a loyal and devoted comrad for life.*

This friendship does come with a pricetag. You'll have to honor your dog's loyalty and devotion and commit to giving him quality time every day, for life. Most dogs enjoy one to two hours of attention a day. To banish your dog to the backyard or leave him alone for long periods for weeks on end can cause him to become depressed and even destructive.

Not to worry. The more time you spend with your pit bull, the more you'll enjoy him. And isn't that why you wanted a dog in the first place?

Jonny Sue was abandoned in a backyard in a former life. She's so happy about living indoors now that she's become a therapy dog for her owner's clients.

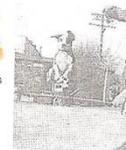


**Pit Bulls are Agile, Athletic and FUN**

*Oh yeah, bigtime fun. Are you ready to give your dog the work outs he wants and needs?*

Many pit bulls are natural born show offs and drop jaws wherever they compete in dog sports including agility, flyball, dockdiving and frisbee fun. Even if you don't compete, your pit bull's athletic talents will amaze and ent you.

Make sure that your dog doesn't use his track star skills to weasle out of your yard though. Many are stolen or forever lost once they're out. Your yard should have a secure fence and your dog should stay indoors when no one's home. If indoor accommodations are not possible, we recommend a roomy outdoor kennel run with a good lock, or a well designed cable trolley. Always have a collar and tags on your dog in case they do get lost. Microchip your pet too! Animal shelters can get so crowded that they just aren't able hold lost dogs for more than a few days and yours could be destroyed before you can find her if she isn't tagged and/or microchipped. On behalf of all the lost pit bulls who never make it safely back to their home, BAD RAP asks you to PLEASE be extra careful with your dog.



**Dog Aggression Happens!**

*Dogs will be dogs. Your job is to set your dog up for success.*

In all dog breeds, dog tolerance levels can range from very dog social to very dog aggressive. Most well socia pit bulls fall somewhere in the middle. Even with the big help of socialization and obedience training, this confi breed can be pushed to fight if sufficiently challenged by another dog. This bravado can bring you trouble if re understood and not managed well, especially in today's anti-pit bull climate. To make things even more confus dog tolerance levels can shift. Late maturing puppies can lose their forgiving nature as they grow older, catchi many dog owners by surprise. In other cases, dog aggressive adults can become much more dog tolerant wth training and proper socializing opportunities. Dog tolerance comes from a blend of nature and nurture and is influenced by a dog's genetics, socialization, training and owner management. ... not "How he was raised." You ultimately hold the key to your dog's success with other dogs.

As any dog.

Confused? Know Your Dog!

Read About Dog Tolerance Levels [\(read 3\)](#)

No matter how tolerant your dog may be with other dogs, it's your responsibility to keep him well supervised and properly managed around other dogs, especially dogs he doesn't know. Good management is key and must be kept up for the life of your pet. This includes avoiding rushed leash greets, despring measured introductions with potential dog friends and monitoring play sessions. A pit bull that shows leash reactivity by pulling at the leash and barking at dogs does NOT make a good impression (pub-leez?) and should be handled with training ASAP.

To prevent trouble, all dog owners should stay alert to the different types of triggers that can cause conflict between dogs (big-dwarf? chew toy? escalated play? etc). All owners should know how to safely break up a fight. More info on fight triggers and avoiding fights: [Bull-Dogs \[\\(read 6\\)\]\(#\)](#)

More Reading:

What did the dogs from the Michael Vick dog fighting case teach us about Dog Aggression? [@mgspratt@facebook.com](#)

For tips on [Bullhorns \[\\(read 2\\)\]\(#\)](#), [Seeleash \[\\(read 6\\)\]\(#\)](#)

For tips on [Socializing \[\\(read 6\\)\]\(#\)](#)



Pit Bulls can be Butt Heads!

Take me to your leader, it's time to dust off that treat bag and get to class!

While pit bulls are known for their gutsy, affectionate, even comedic personalities, they can certainly be pushy, willful too. They happily make up their own rules if you don't set some in place. This means you'll need to be decisive leader for your enthusiastic pet. Obedience classes are still

one of the best ways to bring out your inner-leader and build great manners in your dog. The upshot to all this training: Pit bulls tend to be highly intelligent and typically excel in obedience work. Because your dog loves you completely and wants to please you, he'll very likely end up being one of the most impressive, best trained dogs in the neighborhood. Enjoy your opportunity to be a Pit Bull Show Off!

Note: To help new homes set rules, we offer this hand out [\(read 1\)](#) [\(read 1\)](#) to help new adoptees wherever they bring BADRAP dogs home. Follow these guidelines and you can't go wrong.



Pit bulls Love the Great Outdoors

Have you earned your Outdoor Adventures badge yet?

Finding safe, secure places to run your dog off leash can be problematic, if not next to impossible. Many areas allow dogs to be off-leash and areas that do can be full of dangers for your pet, specifically in the form of feral or under socialized dogs. If your dog finds himself in a fight with another dog, things could go badly very fast. It may be the one to get into trouble and your dog could end up conflicted by animal control, even if there was no damage and even if he wasn't the one to start the fight. Because there's just no way to completely avoid loose poorly managed dogs in the parks, most veteran pit bull owners choose to play in safe and steel clear of these places in favor of safer, less populated play options. Look for Remote beaches, fenced in ball fields with a gate can monitor, hiking trails where on-leash rules are respected by all, a friends big back yard.

For important info read [Pit Bulls & Dog Parks \[\\(read 10\\)\]\(#\)](#)

Pit Bulls are Social Butterflies

It's a tough crowd out there. Ambassador Owners please apply!

Your dog will LOVE going places with you to one the shops and visit with your friends, family, and strangers on the street. Head up though - you'll need to wear a thick skin in some situations. Ever since the dogs felt victim to the careless deeds of unethical breeders and reckless owners, pit bulls and dogs that look like pit bulls have taken a hit. Media driven myths, misdeeds, and non-distracting and systems abound. It can be hard to be anonymous when you walk with your dog. Perfect strangers will want to talk with you about pit bulls - some with friendly comments and some will say the roughest things. It can all seem like a grueling exercise at times when you're navigating insensitive comments.



There's a bright side to this madness. By taking your well behaved pit bull out into the world, you know you'll be actively working to educate and dispel breed myths every single day. Flang out at the local coffee shop with your dog by your side will probably bring you more interesting conversations than you ever thought possible. Undoubtedly, you'll be making friends with your busy charging minds. We thank you for wanting to take on the role as an Ambassador Owner. One productive conversation at a time, and we're turning the tide for pit bulls everywhere.

A Family Pit Bull is a Kid's Best Friend

